**Summer Reading List for Incoming 7th Graders 2013**

**book descriptions by  Amazon.com**

***Legend* (any book in series) by Marie Lu:** What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect.  But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

***Chasing Lincoln’s Killer: The Search for John Wilkes Booth* by James L. Swanson:**Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer*is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

***Everlost* by Neal Shusterman:** Nick and Allie don’t survive the car accident, but their souls don’t exactly get where they’re supposed to go either. Instead, they’re caught halfway between life and death, in a sort of limbo known as Everlost: a shadow of the living world, filled with all the things and places that no longer exist. It’s a magical, yet dangerous place where bands of lost kids run wild and anyone who stands in the same place too long sinks to the center of the Earth. In this imaginative novel, Neal Shusterman explores questions of life, death, and what just might lie in between.

***Tracker* by Gary Paulson:** For John Borne's family, hunting has nothing to do with sport or manliness. It's a matter of survival. Since losing his parents in an accident, John and his grandfather go off into the woods every fall to shoot the deer that puts meat on the table over the long Minnesota winter. This year, John must go alone because his grandfather is very ill. As John Borne closes in on the doe he's been tracking for two days, he comes to believe she has the mysterious power to cheat death and save the life of his beloved grandfather, who is dying of cancer.

[***Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy***](http://erclk.about.com/?zi=16/3GSx)**by Albert Marrin:**On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City burst into flames.  The factory was crowded.  The doors were locked to ensure workers stay inside.  One hundred forty-six people mostly women—perished; it was one of the most lethal workplace fires in American history until September 11, 2001. This book tells the story of the pride and activism of fearless immigrants and women who stood up to business, got America on their side, and finally changed working conditions for our entire nation.

***The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy**: For more than a century, poor Mrs. O'Leary and her cow have shouldered the blame for Chicago's infamous Great Fire of 1871-one of the biggest disasters in American history. Murphy reveals facts about the cow and her owner. Murphy demonstrates that the fire could have been contained: he unfolds a tale of botched communication, class discrimination (the fire began in a working-class section of the city and only later spread to the wealthier areas) and plain old bad luck. Contains historic photos, engravings and newspaper clippings on nearly every page.

***Maze Runner* by James Dashner (any book in series)**: When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone. When the lift’s doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the dangerous maze that surrounds them have opened. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers.

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers:**“Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? In this innovative novel by Walter Dean Myers, the reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being held in prison during the trial.

***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp* by Rick Yancey*:*** Astonishingly tall 15-year-old Alfred is plunged into a world of adventure, assassination, and Arthurian legend when he agrees to help his uncle filch an ancient sword from the office of a CEO who just happens to be a descendent of the Knights of the Round Table. Of course the sword turns out to be none other than Excalibur, and the guy Alfred swiped it for is Mogart, a knight-gone-bad who hopes to use its magical powers to take over the world. Enter Bennacio, another descendant of the Round Table, who then takes Alfred under his wing on a quest across the Atlantic to rescue the sword from Mogart.

***Reckless* by Cornelia Funke:** Ever since Jacob Reckless was a child, he has been escaping to a hidden world through a portal in his father's abandoned study. Over the years, he has made a name for himself as a finder of enchanted items and buried secrets. But life in this other world is about to change. Tragedy strikes when Jacob's younger brother, Will, follows him through the portal. Brutally attacked, Will is infected with a curse that is quickly transforming him into a Goyl--a ruthless killing machine, with skin made of stone. Jacob is prepared to fight to save his brother, but in a land built on trickery and lies, Jacob will need all the wit, courage, and reckless spirit he can summon to reverse the dark spell--before it's too late.

***Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan:** When Jake Semple is kicked out of yet another school, the Applewhites, an eccentric family of artists, offer to let him live with them and attend their unstructured Creative Academy. Twelve-year-old E.D., the only non-artistic (and organized) person in her family, feels like "the invisible Applewhite" and is wary of Jake. But humor abounds in the ever-building chaos: a writer coming to interview E.D.'s mother stays to do a slew of projects on the famous family, including inviting a television crew to document their lives.